

III. STATUS AND WELL-BEING OF THE CHILDREN IN CHILD ONLY CASES

This chapter presents findings on the status and well being of the focal child in the sample of child only cases. The focal child was randomly selected from among the children in the household who were on Work First.

Many of the questions that are analyzed in this chapter are drawn from the National Survey of America's Families (NSAF). The chapter includes comparisons between the North Carolina data and the data from the 1999 NSAF surveys for selected variables.¹

The NSAF includes age-specific questions for three major age groups of children, as follows:

- children aged 0-5;
- children aged 6-11; and
- children aged 12-17.

In addition to individual questions, the NSAF combines the responses from multiple questions to construct indices to measure different aspects of child well-being and adjustment.

For children *aged 0-5*, the survey included two NSAF questions designed to measure "cognitive stimulation." These two items do not form an index, and the data are analyzed separately for the two questions and compared to NSAF national data.

For children *aged 6-11*, the survey included a set of six questions that make up the Child Behavior Index for this age group in the NSAF. The survey also included questions to measure Involvement in Positive Activities, as defined by NSAF. In addition, the survey included questions to measure "school engagement" among 6-11 year old children, based on the four-item scale used in the NSAF.

For children *aged 12-17*, the survey included the NSAF questions that make up the Child Behavior Index for these children. Some of these questions are the same as those used for 6-11 year old children, but some are unique to the 12-17 year age group. The survey also included the NSAF questions designed to measure Involvement in Positive Activities among the 12-17 year olds. Again, some of these questions are the same as those used for the 6-11 year age group.

For the School Engagement Index, the same four questions are used by NSAF for both the 6-11 year olds and the 12-17 year olds. In this chapter, we present the school engagement results separately for the two age groups. This approach helps to control for possible bias in the

¹ The 1999 NSAF survey is the latest survey for which results have been published. The major sources of NSAF data for this report include (1) *Snapshots of America's Families: Children's Behavior and Well-Being*, and (2) *Snapshots of America's Families: Children's Family Environment*.

analyses resulting from the fact that, within the sample of cases involving children aged 6-17, children in the parental cases were on average younger than the children in non-parental cases.

In addition to the NSAF questions, the survey included a number of questions that were unique to the North Carolina study.

A. CHILD'S LIVING SITUATION AND CONTACT WITH ABSENT PARENTS

In Non-Parental Cases, the Children Had Typically Been Living with the Caretaker for Long Periods of Time

Exhibits III-1-A to III-1-C show the length of time that the focal children had been living with the non-parental caretaker, as follows:

- Of the children aged 0-5, almost 54 percent had been living with the caretaker for more than two years.
- Of the children aged 6-11, about 77 percent had been living with the caretaker for more than two years, and 54 percent had been living with the caretaker for more than 5 years.
- Of the children aged 7-12, about 64 percent had been living with the caretaker for more than 5 years, and 42 percent had been living with the caretaker for more than 10 years. Only 17 percent had been with the caretaker for less than 2 years.

Exhibit III-I-A - How Long Has the Focal Child Been Living With You? (Children Aged 0-5) - Non-Parental Cases

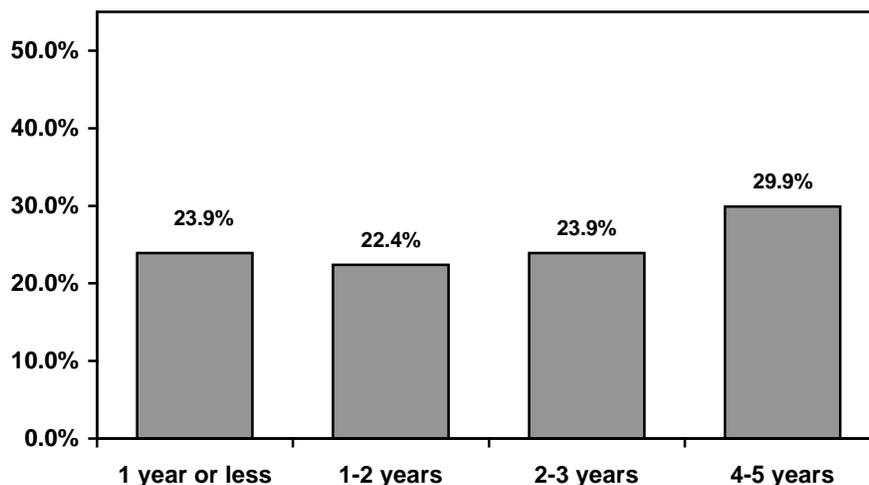


Exhibit III-I-B - How Long Has the Focal Child Been Living With You? (Children Aged 6-11) - Non-Parental Cases

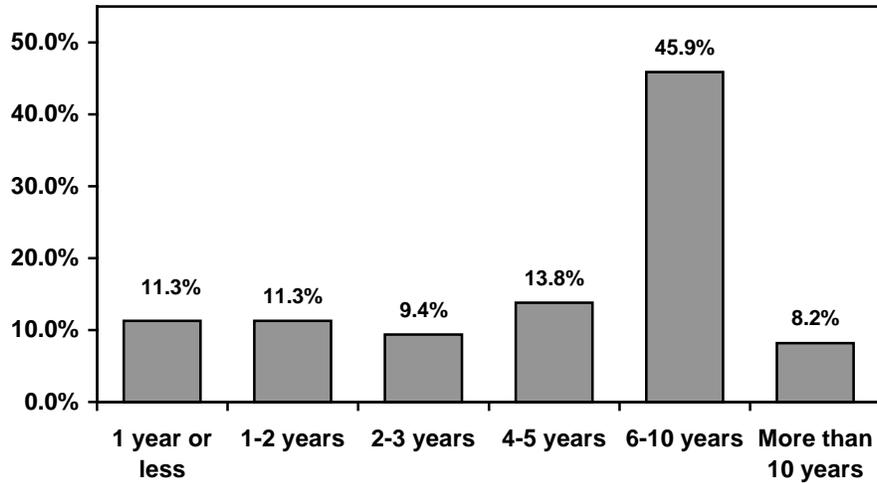
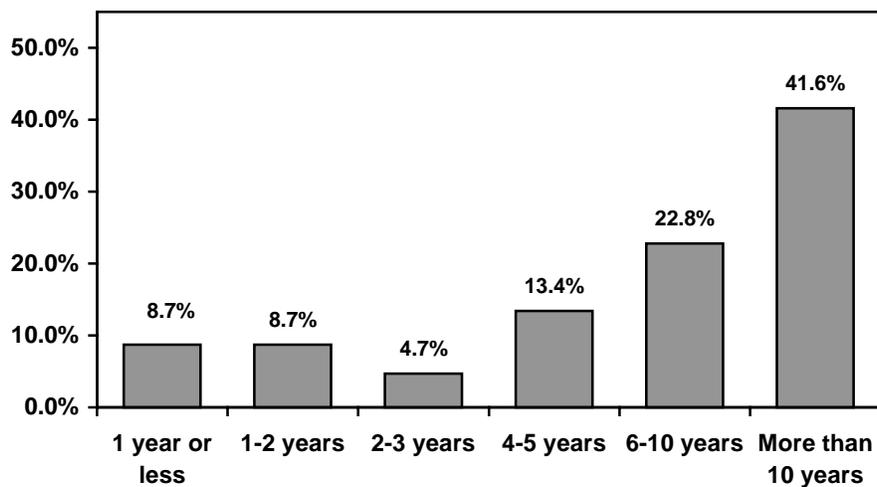


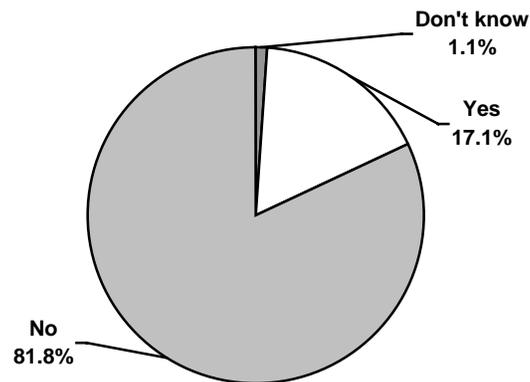
Exhibit III-I-C - How Long Has the Focal Child Been Living With You? (Children Aged 12-17) - Non-Parental Cases



In Non-Parental Cases, More Than 80 Percent of the Children Had Lived Continuously with the Caretaker Since Last Living with the Biological Parent

Exhibit III-2 shows that, in 82 percent of the non-parental cases, the child had lived with the caretaker continuously since last living with the biological parent.

**Exhibit III-2 - Since the Focal Child Last Lived with His/Her Parent, Has He/She Lived With Anyone Else?
- Non-Parental Cases**



In About 60 Percent of the Non-Parental Cases, the Focal Child Had Had Some Contact with the Mother in the Last 6 Months

Exhibit III-3 shows that in 60 percent of the non-parental cases, the focal child had had some contact with the mother in the last 6 months. In 31 percent of the cases, the mother was alive but had had no contact with the child in the last 6 months.

**Exhibit III-3
Contact Between the Focal Child and the Child's Mother,
Non-Parental Cases**

Status	Percent
Mother deceased	7.2%
Mother's status not known	1.1%
<i>Mother living:</i>	
Child lived with mother in last 6 months	5.6%
Child did not live with mother in last 6 months, but saw mother once a month or more often	31.7%
Child did not live with mother in last 6 months, saw mother in last 6 months, but less than once per month	22.9%
Child had not seen mother in last 6 months	31.5%
Total	100.0%

In 35 Percent of the Non-Parental Cases, the Focal Child Had Had Some Contact with the Father in the Last 6 Months

Exhibit III-4 shows that in 35 percent of the cases, the focal child had had some contact with the father in the last 6 months. In almost 46 percent of the cases, the child's father was alive but had had no contact with the child in the last 6 months.

Exhibit III-4 Contact Between the Focal Child and the Child's Father, Non-Parental Cases

Status	Percent
Father deceased	3.5%
Father's status unknown	15.5%
<i>Father living:</i>	
Child lived with father in last 6 months	3.2%
Child did not live with father in last 6 months, but saw father once a month or more often	14.4%
Child did not live with father in last 6 months, saw father in last 6 months, but less than once per month	17.6%
Child had not seen father in last 6 months	45.6%
Total	100.0%

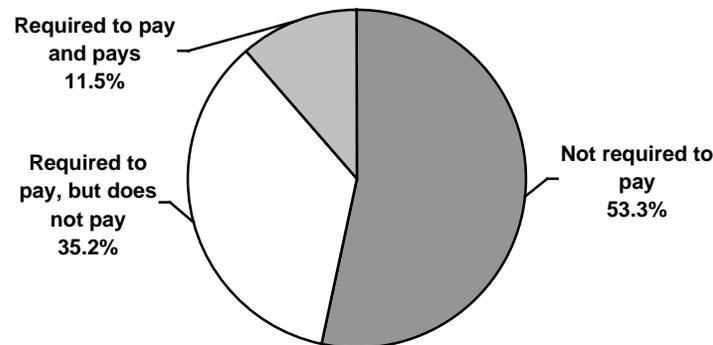
Only a Small Percentage of the Absent Parents Were Paying Child Support or Helping in Other Ways

Exhibit III-5 shows that, in non-parental cases where the absent father was living, the father was paying child support in only 11 percent of the cases.

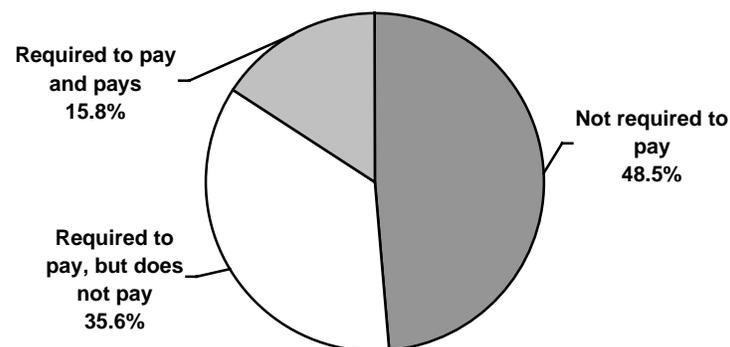
Exhibit III-6 indicates that, in parental cases where the father was not living in the home but was alive, only 16 percent of the fathers were paying child support.

In addition, though not shown in the exhibit, very few of the absent fathers in either non-parental or parental cases were helping out in other ways, such as providing cash, food, or help paying for child care. In non-parental cases where the mother was absent from the home but living, about 9 percent were paying child support. Very few of the absent mothers helped out in other ways, according to respondents.

**Exhibit III-5 - Does the Father Pay Child Support? -
Non-Parental Cases Where the Father Is Absent but
Alive**



**Exhibit III-6 - Does the Father Pay Child Support? -
Parental Cases Where the Father Is Absent but Alive**



B. HEALTH AND CAPACITY OF THE CHILD

Children in Non-Parental Cases Were Somewhat More Likely Than Children in Parental Cases to Be in Good Health

Exhibit III-7 shows that almost 66 percent of the respondents in non-parental cases rated the focal child's health as excellent or very good, compared to only 54 percent of the respondents in parental cases. However, there was no difference between the two types of cases in the percentage who rated the child's health as fair or poor.

In addition, as indicated in Exhibit III-8, there was not a great difference between the two groups in the percentage who ranked the child's health as better or worse than 6 months before.

About 99 percent of the respondents in both types of cases reported that the focal child was covered by Medicaid.

Exhibit III-7 - Health Status of the Focal Child, by Case Type

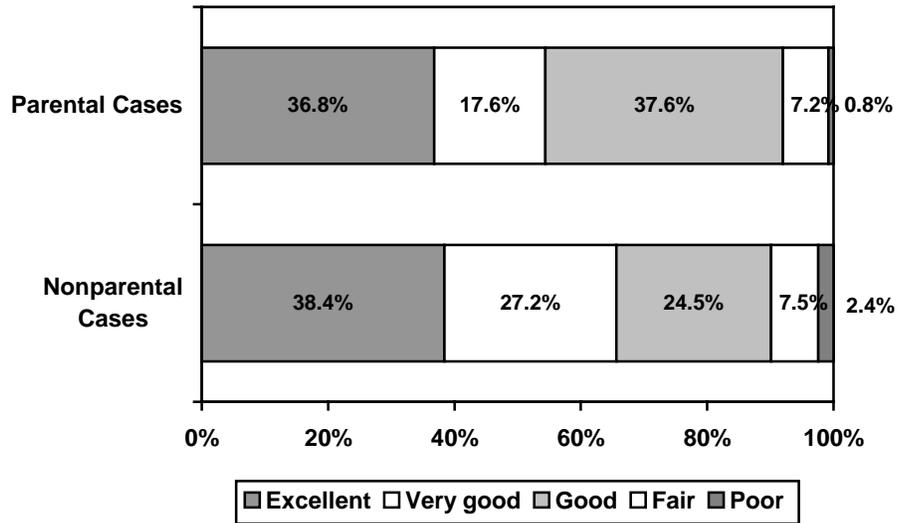
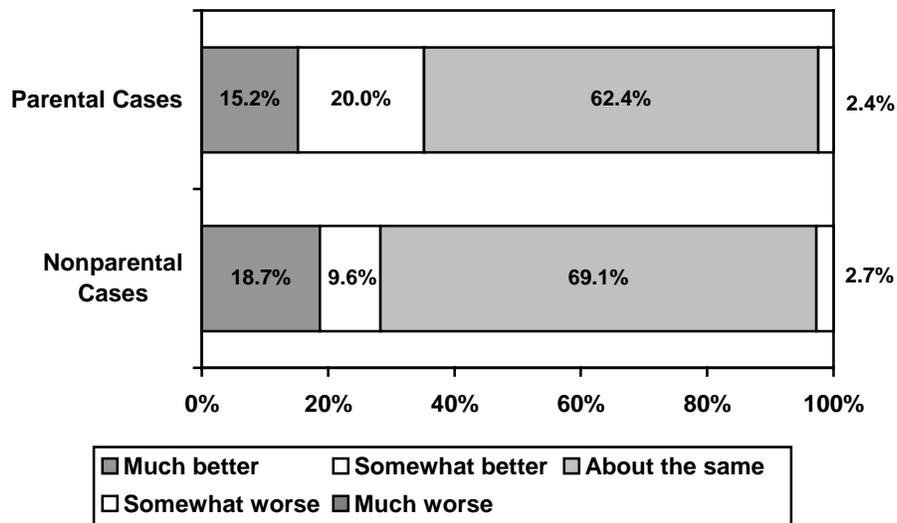


Exhibit III-8 - Health Status of Focal Child Compared to 6 Months Ago, by Case Type



The Health Status of Children in Child Only Cases in North Carolina Was Roughly Comparable to the Health Status of Children in Low-Income Families Nationally

As indicated in Exhibit III-8-A, the NSAF 1999 surveys showed that 7.7 percent of children in families below 200 percent of the poverty were in fair or poor health. This compares to 8 percent of the children in parental cases in the child only sample, and 9.9 percent of the children in non-parental cases.

The slightly higher percentage for children in non-parental households may be due to the fact that these children were older on average than the children in parental households. The NSAF data show that older children were more likely to be in fair or poor health: 10.5 percent of 12-17 year olds were in poor or fair health, compared to only 6.3 percent of children aged 0-5, and 6.7 percent of children aged 6-11.

Exhibit III-8-A Percent of Children in Fair or Poor Health (Children Aged 0-17)

Sample Unit	Percent
NSAF 1999 data for families below 200 percent of poverty	7.7%
North Carolina children in child only parental cases	8.0%
North Carolina children in child only non-parental cases	9.9%

Children in Parental Cases Were Somewhat Less Likely Than Children in Non-Parental Cases to Have a Physical, Learning, or Mental Health Condition, But This May Be Due to Age Factors

Exhibit III-9 shows that almost 17 percent of the respondents in non-parental cases reported that the focal child had a physical, learning, or mental health condition that limited the child's participation in usual activities. The same was true for only 11 percent of the children in parental cases.

Exhibit III-10 shows that the same overall pattern was found when respondents were asked whether the child had conditions that limited the child's ability to do schoolwork (14 percent for the parental cases and 18 percent for the non-parental cases).

It is possible that part of the difference between the two types of cases is that the children in non-parental cases were somewhat older on average than the children in parental cases. This is confirmed, in fact, by data showing that children aged 6 and older were more likely to have limiting conditions than younger children.

Exhibit III-9 - Does the Focal Child Have a Physical, Learning, or Mental Health Condition that Limits Participation in Usual Kinds of Activities? -- by Case Type

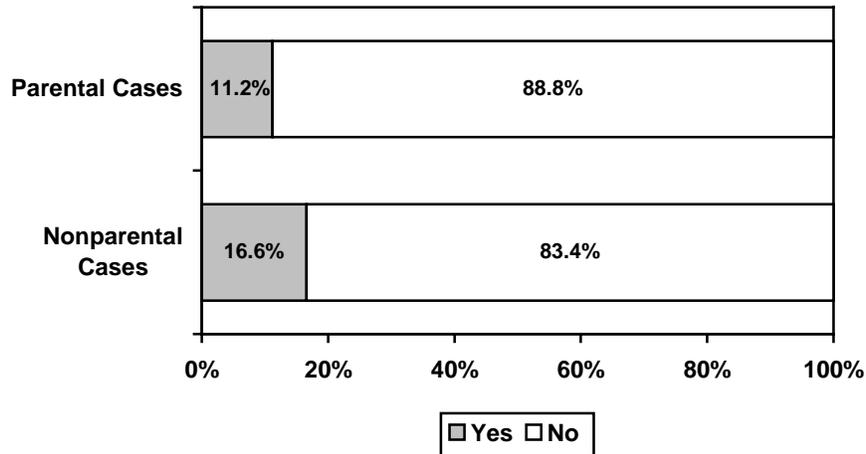
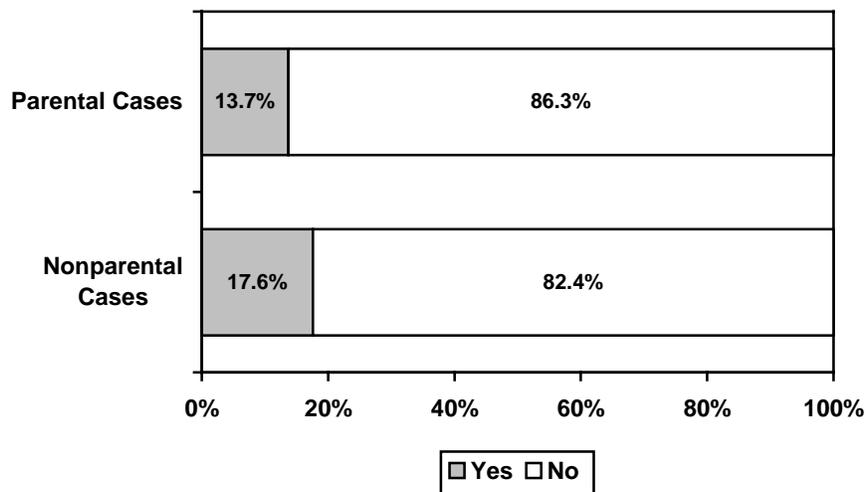


Exhibit III-10 - Does the Focal Child Have a Physical, Learning, or Mental Health Condition that Limits Ability to do Regular Schoolwork? -- by Case Type



C. COGNITIVE STIMULATION OF CHILDREN AGED 0-5

For children aged 0-5, the survey included two questions designed to measure the focal child’s cognitive stimulation, as defined by NSAF. The survey also included a question about the child’s enrollment in child care programs or Head Start.

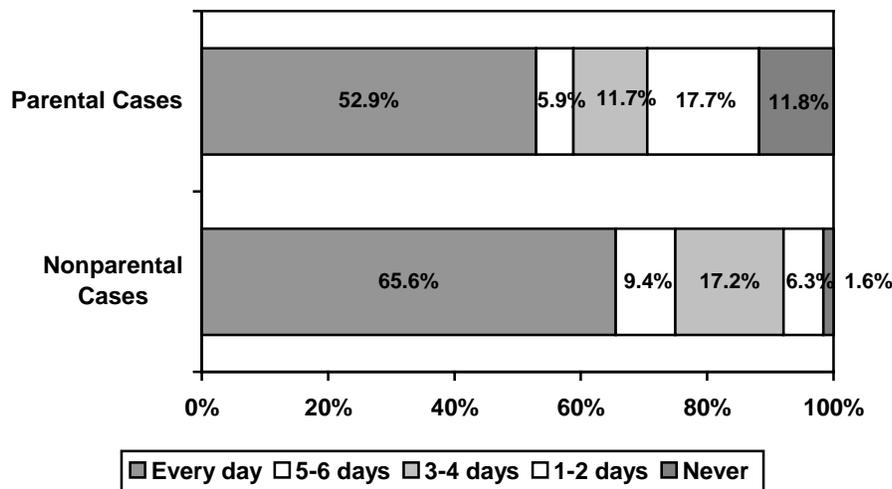
Caretakers in Non-Parental Cases Were More Likely than the Parents in Parental Cases to Read Stories to Young Children on a Daily Basis

As indicated in Exhibit III-11, almost 66 percent of the respondents in non-parental cases reported that they read stories every day to their child aged 0-5. This compares to only 53 percent of the respondents in parental cases.

Almost 12 percent of the respondents in parental cases reported that they never read stories to the child, compared to less than 2 percent of respondents in non-parental cases.

It is possible that some of the difference between the two types of cases may be due to the fact that the parental cases typically involved younger children within the 0-5 category, such as infants.

Exhibit III-11 - How Many Days in the Past Week Did You/Family Member Read or Tell Stories to the Focal Child (Aged 0-5)? -- by Case Type



Children in Parental Cases Were Doing Somewhat Worse than the National Average for Low-Income Families in Terms of being Read Stories, While Children in Non-Parental Cases Were Doing Much Better Than the National Average

The published NSAF data for 1999 show the frequency with which parents or caretakers read stories to their young children. However, the data are provided only for children aged 1-5, whereas data for the study were collected for children aged 0-5. To make the data comparable, Exhibit III-11-A presents data from both sources for children aged 1-5.

As indicated in the exhibit, about 33 percent of the respondents in child only parental cases said that they read stories to their child fewer than three days per week. This compares to

24 percent for NSAF families below 200 percent of the poverty level. In non-parental child only cases, only 8 percent of the children were read stories fewer than three days per week.

**Exhibit III-11-A
Percent of Parents or Caretakers Who Read Stories to Their Child Fewer Than Three Days Per Week***

Sample Unit	Percent
NSAF 1999 data for families below 200 percent of poverty	24.1%
North Carolina children in child only parental cases	33.3%
North Carolina children in child only non-parental cases	7.9%

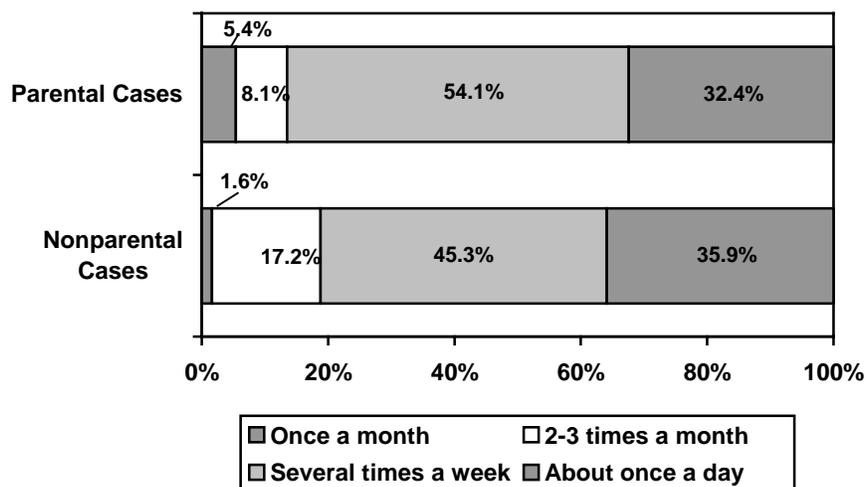
* Data are for children aged 1-5

There Was Not a Great Difference Between Parental and Non-Parental Cases in the Frequency With Which Young Children Were Taken on Outings

As indicated in Exhibit III-12, about 36 percent of the respondents in non-parental cases reported that they took their 0-5 year old child on outings about once per day, compared to 32 percent of the respondents in parental cases. (Outings include trips to stores or parks or other types of outings).

However, almost 19 percent of the children in non-parental cases were taken on outings 2-3 times per month or fewer, compared to only 13 percent of children in parental cases.

Exhibit III-12 - How Often in the Past Month Have You/Family Member Taken the Focal Child (Aged 0-5) on Any Kind of Outing? -- by Case Type



NSAF Data Show That Children in Child Only Cases in North Carolina Did Somewhat Better than the National Average for Low-Income Families in Terms of Outings for Young Children

As indicated in Exhibit III-12-A, almost 22 percent of the respondents on the 1999 NSAF survey of families below 200 percent of poverty reported that they took their young children on outings two to three times a month or less often. This was higher than the percentages found for respondents in both the parental and non-parental cases in North Carolina.

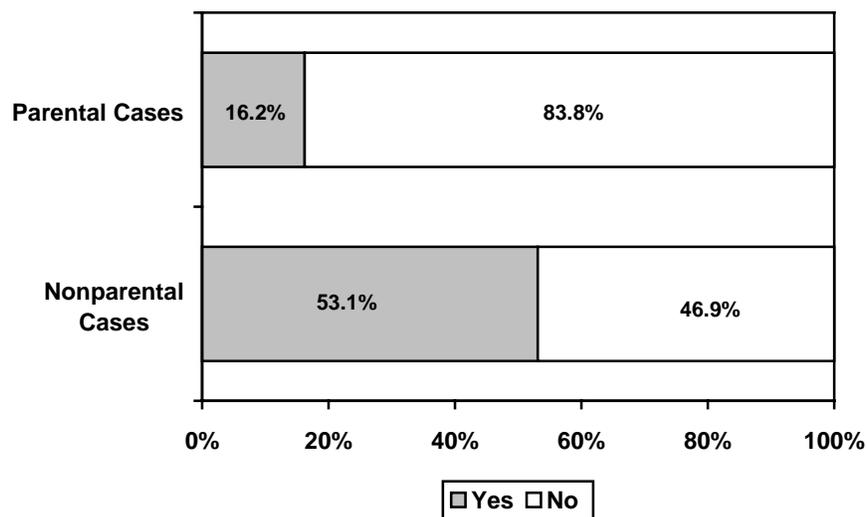
Exhibit III-12-A Percent of Children Aged 0-5 Who Were Taken on Outings Only Two to Three Times a Month or Less Often

Sample Unit	Percent
NSAF 1999 data for families below 200 percent of poverty	21.7%
North Carolina children in child only parental cases	13.5%
North Carolina children in child only non-parental cases	18.8%

Children in Non-Parental Cases Were Much More Likely to Be Enrolled in Child Care or Head Start

Exhibit III-13 shows that in 53 percent of non-parental cases, the 0-5 year old focal child was enrolled in child care or Head Start, compared to only 16 percent in parental cases. A possible explanation for this finding is that the adults in non-parental cases were much more likely to be working than the adults in parental cases.

Exhibit III-13 - Is Focal Child (Aged 0-5) Currently Enrolled in Child Care or Head Start? -- by Case Type



D. WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN AGED 6-11

This section presents findings on the well-being of children aged 6-11 in North Carolina child only cases. Comparisons are also drawn with national data from the NSAF. Information is presented on the following variables:

- behavioral and emotional problems, as measured by the six NSAF questions that comprise the Child Behavior Index for children aged 6-11;
- involvement in positive activities, as measured by the three questions from the NSAF for 6-11 year old children;
- school engagement, as measured by the four-item NSAF School Engagement Index; and
- school attendance problems, school behavior problems, and school mobility.

To compare the North Carolina findings with the published NSAF data, we present comparable data based on the NSAF indices for each major set of questions.

1. BEHAVIORAL AND EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS AMONG CHILDREN AGED 6-11

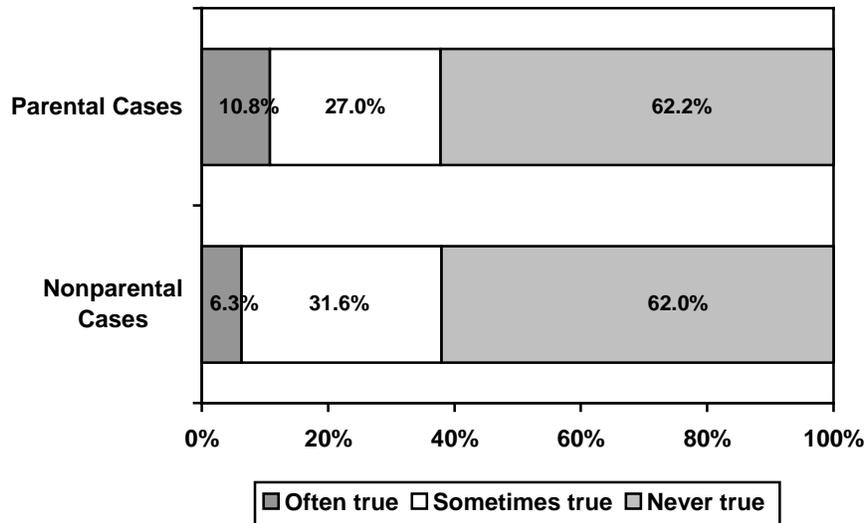
Respondents in Non-Parental Cases Were Slightly Less Likely to Report that Their Child Did Not Get Along With Other Children, But Were More Likely to Report That the Child Could Not Pay Attention and Was Depressed

As indicated in Exhibit III-14, almost 11 percent of the respondents in parental cases reported that their child aged 6-11 often did not get along with other children, compared to only 6 percent of the respondents in non-parental cases.

Exhibit III-15 shows that 19 percent of the respondents in non-parental cases reported that their 6-11 year old child had trouble concentrating or paying attention, compared to only 5 percent of the respondents in parental cases.

As indicated in Exhibit III-16, almost 42 percent of the respondents in non-parental cases reported that their 6-11 year old child was often or sometimes depressed, compared to only 32 percent of the respondents in parental cases.

**Exhibit III-14 - He/She Doesn't Get Along With Other Kids,
by Case Type (Children Ages 6 to 11)**



**Exhibit III-15 - He/She Can't Concentrate or Pay Attention
for Very Long, by Case Type (Children Ages 6 to 11)**

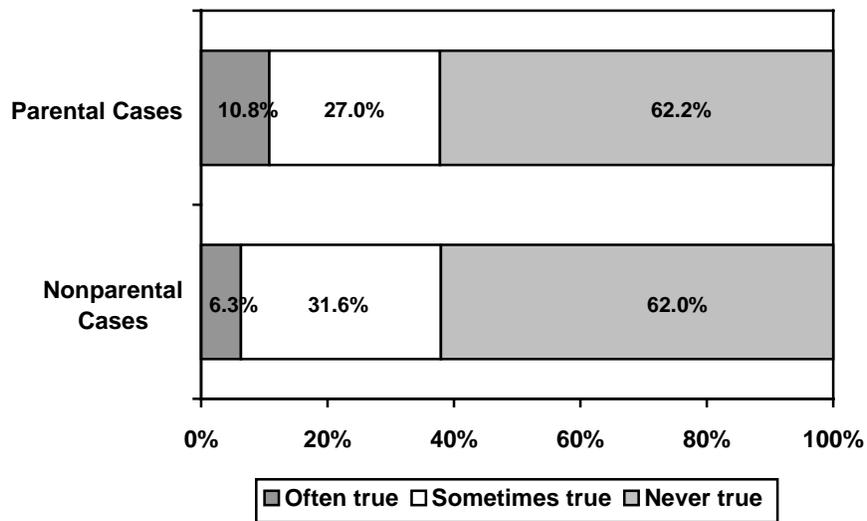
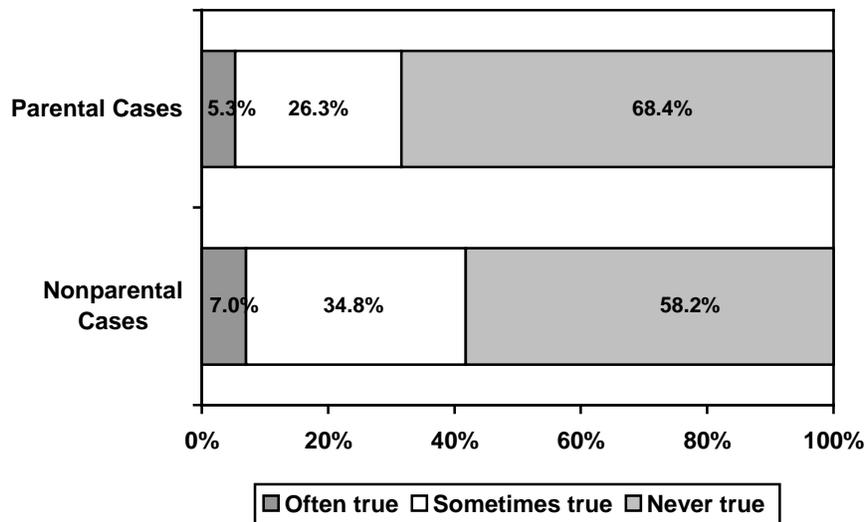


Exhibit III-16 - He/She Has Been Unhappy, Sad, or Depressed, by Case Type (Children Ages 6 to 11)



Respondents in Non-Parental Cases Were Slightly More Likely to Report that Their Child Aged 6-11 Sometimes Felt Worthless or Had Been Nervous or High Strung

As shown in Exhibit III-17, about 23 percent of the respondents in non-parental cases reported that their 6-11 year old child often or sometimes felt worthless or inferior, compared to only 16 percent of respondents in parental cases.

Exhibit III-18 indicates that almost 35 percent of the respondents in non-parental cases reported that their 6-11 year old child often or sometimes was nervous or high-strung, compared to only 16 percent of respondents in parental cases.

However, as shown in Exhibit III-19, there was not a major difference between the two types of cases in the percentage of respondents reporting that their 6-11 year old child acted too young for his/her age.

Exhibit III-17 - He/She (Child Aged 6-11) Feels Worthless or Inferior -- by Case Type

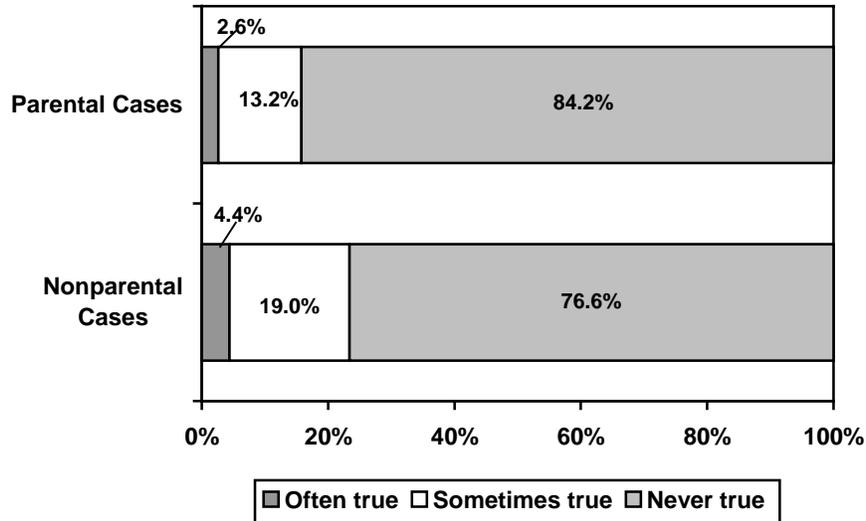


Exhibit III-18 - He/She (Child Aged 6-11) Has Been Nervous, High-Strung or Tense, by Case Type

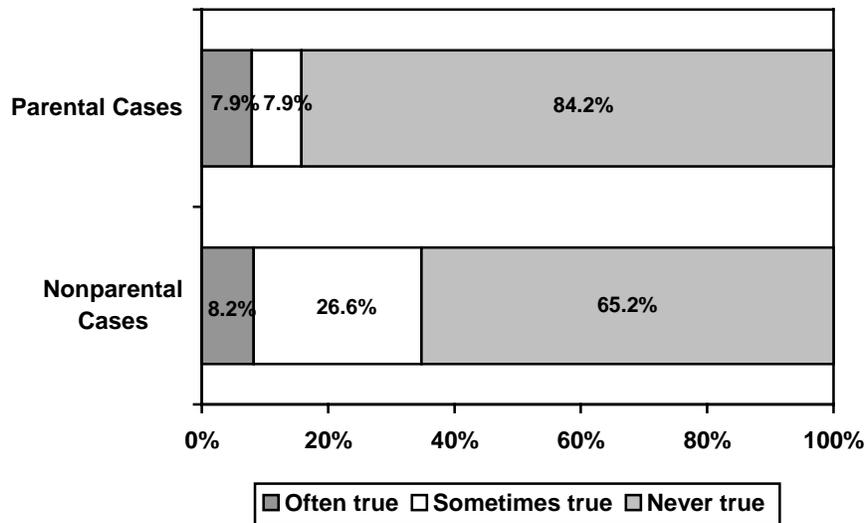
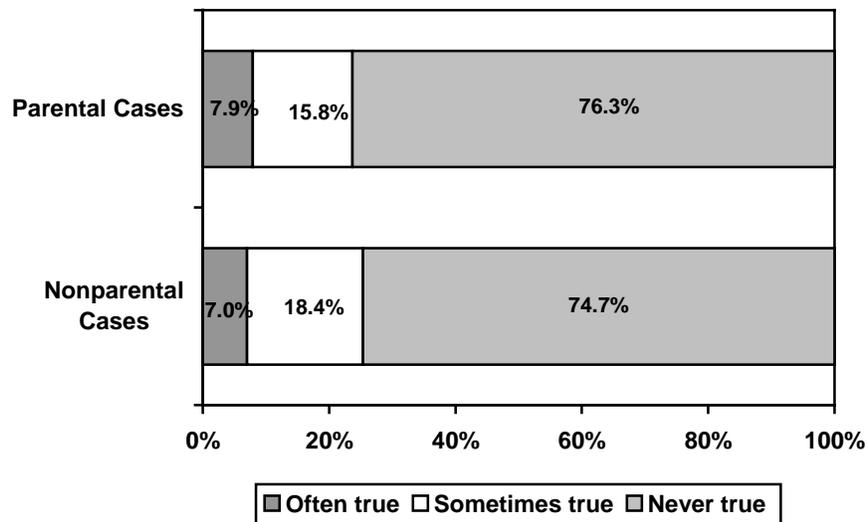


Exhibit III-19 - He/She (Child Aged 6-11) Acts Too Young For His/Her Age, by Case Type

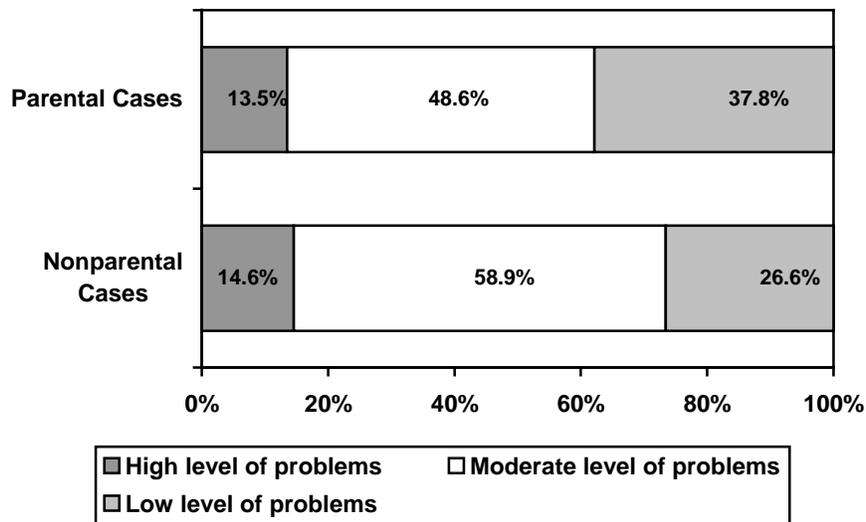


On the Overall Child Behavior Index, the Percentage of 6-11 year Olds Who Had a High Level of Problems Was About the Same for Parental and Non-Parental Cases. However, Children in Non-Parental Cases Were More Likely to Have a Moderate Level of Problems.

Using the NSAF Child Behavior Index to combine the results of the previous set of questions, Exhibit III-20 shows that almost 15 percent of the 6-11 year old children in non-parental cases had a high level of behavioral and emotional problems, compared to 13.5 percent of children in parental cases.

However, almost 59 percent of the children in non-parental cases had a moderate level of behavioral and emotional problems, compared to only 49 percent of the children in parental cases.

**Exhibit III-20 - Child Behavior Index, by Case Type
(Children Ages 6 to 11)**



Children Aged 6-11 in Child Only Cases in North Carolina Were Somewhat More Likely to Have a High Level of Behavioral and Emotional Problems than Children in Low-Income Families Nationally

Exhibit III-21 shows that, on the 1999 NSAF survey, about 9 percent of the 6-11 year old children in families below 200 percent of poverty had a high level of behavioral and emotional problems. This was somewhat lower than the percentages found for both types of child only cases in North Carolina.

**Exhibit III-21
Percent of Children Aged 6-11 Who Had a High Level of
Behavioral and Emotional Problems**

Sample Unit	Percent
NSAF 1999 data for families below 200 percent of poverty	9.3%
North Carolina children in child only parental cases	13.5%
North Carolina children in child only non-parental cases	14.6%

2. INVOLVEMENT IN POSITIVE ACTIVITIES AMONG CHILDREN AGED 6-11

Children Aged 6-11 in Non-Parental Cases Were Much More Likely to Have Been Involved in Clubs, Activities, and Sports than Children in Parental Cases

As indicated in Exhibit III-22, about 71 percent of the respondents in non-parental cases reported that their 6-11 year old child had been involved in clubs, organizations, or organized activities in the last 6 months, compared to only 37 percent of respondents in parental cases.

In addition, as shown in Exhibit III-23, about 30 percent of the respondents in non-parental cases reported that their 6-11 year old child had been on a sports team in the past year, compared to only 10 percent of respondents in parental cases.

As indicated in Exhibit III-24, about 15 percent of the respondents in non-parental cases reported that their 6-11 year old child had taken lessons or classes after school or on weekends in subjects like music, dance, languages, or computers, compared to only 10 percent of respondents in parental cases.

Exhibit III-25 combines the data from the three preceding exhibits to show the percentage of 6-11 year old children who were engaged in at least one of the three types of activities. As indicated, about 78 percent of the 6-11 year old children in non-parental cases had been involved in at least one of the three types of activities, compared to only 39 percent of the 6-11 year old children in parental cases.

Exhibit III-22 - In the Last 6 Months, Has Focal Child (Aged 6-11) Participated in Any Clubs, Organizations, or Organized Activities? -- by Case Type

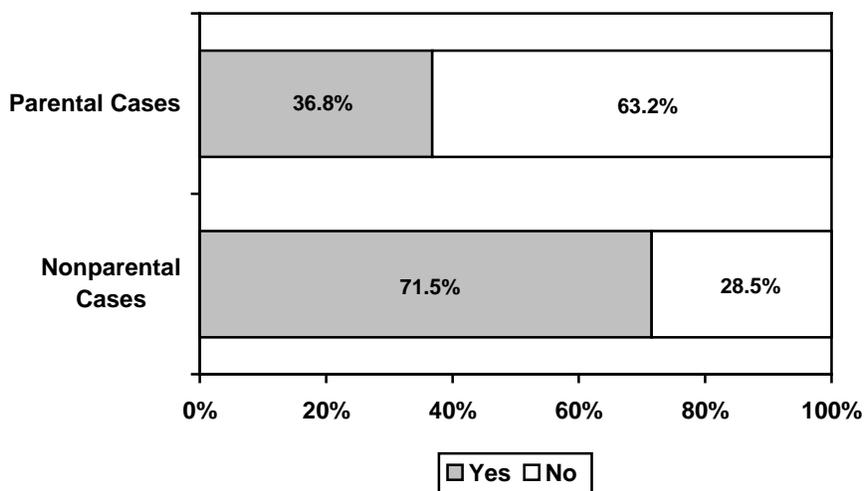


Exhibit III-23 - In the Last Year, Has Focal Child (Aged 6-11) Been On a Sports Team? -- by Case Type

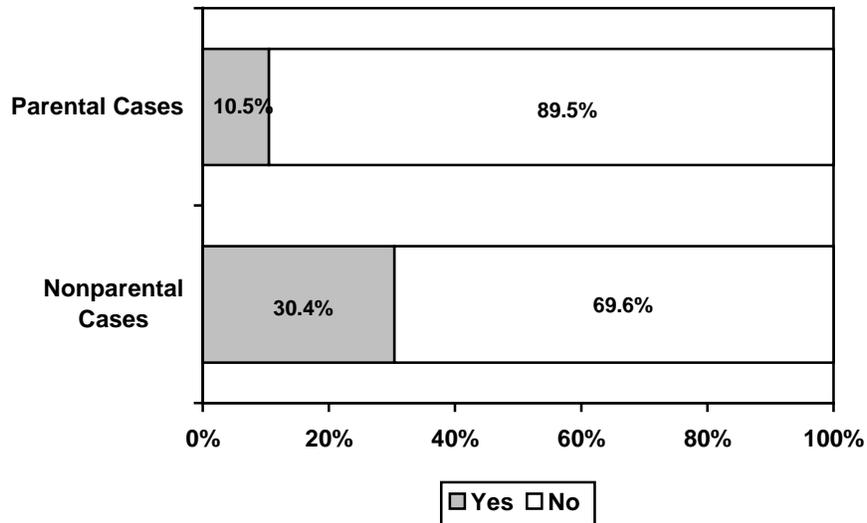


Exhibit III-24 - In the Last 6 Months, Has Focal Child (Aged 6-11) Taken Lessons After School or on the Weekend in Subjects Like Music, Dance, Language, or Computers? -- by Case Type

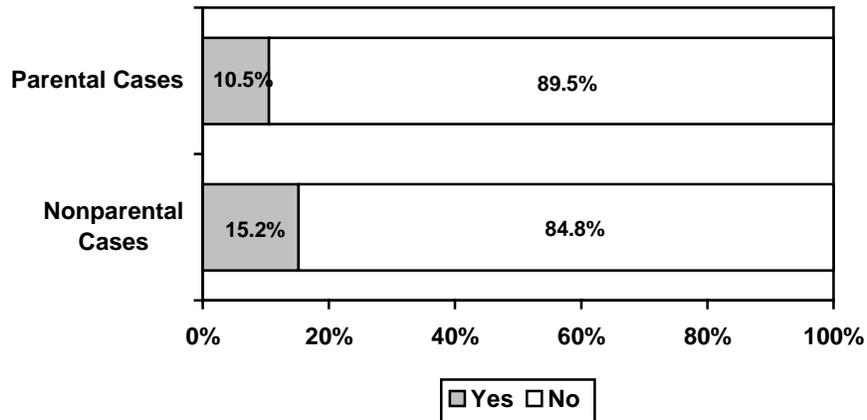
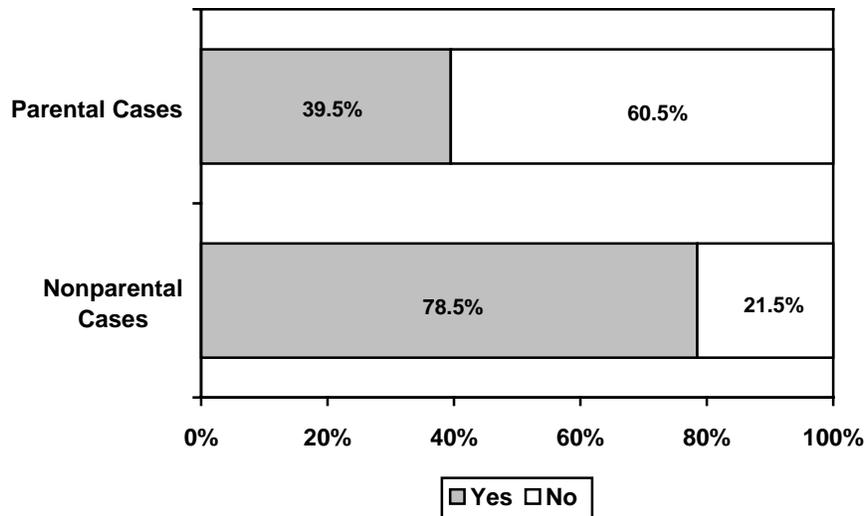


Exhibit III-25 -- Percent of Children Aged 6-11 Involved in at Least One Positive Activity, by Case Type



Based on NSAF Data, the Children Aged 6-11 in Parental Cases Were Much Less Likely to be Involved in Activities Than Children in Low-Income Families Nationally

The published NSAF data show the percentage of children who were engaged in at least one of the three types of activities described above in Exhibits III-22, III-23, and III-24. In Exhibit III-26, we present the NSAF data on the percentage of children who were involved in at least one of these three types of activities. Comparable data are presented for the child only cases.

As indicated, about 67 percent of the low-income respondents to the 1999 NSAF survey reported that their 6-11 year old child was involved in at least one of the three activities. This compares to only 39 percent of the respondents in parental child only cases in North Carolina. Children in non-parental child only cases exceeded the national average for low-income families in terms of the percentage engaged in positive activities.

**Exhibit III-26
Percent of Children Aged 6-11 Participating
in at Least One Positive Activity**

Sample Unit	Percent
NSAF 1999 data for families below 200 percent of poverty	67.5%
North Carolina children in child only parental cases	39.5%
North Carolina children in child only non-parental cases	78.5%

3. SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT AMONG CHILDREN AGED 6-11

Respondents were asked the four questions that comprise the NSAF School Engagement scale. This section presents the findings for focal children aged 6-11.

Among Children Aged 6-11, Those in Parental Cases Were Somewhat Less Likely than Those in Non-Parental Cases to be Highly Engaged in School. However, the Children in Parental Cases Were Also Less Likely to Have Low School Engagement

Using the four-question School Engagement scale, Exhibit III-27 shows that almost 47 percent of the 6-11 year old children in non-parental cases were highly engaged in school, compared to slightly less than 40 percent of 6-11 year old children in parental cases.

However, almost 18 percent of the children in non-parental cases had low school engagement, compared to only 10 percent of the children in parental cases.

Exhibits III-28 to III-31 show the responses to the individual questions in the School Engagement scale, by type of case.

**Exhibit III-27 - School Engagement Index, by Case Type
(Children Ages 6 to 11)**

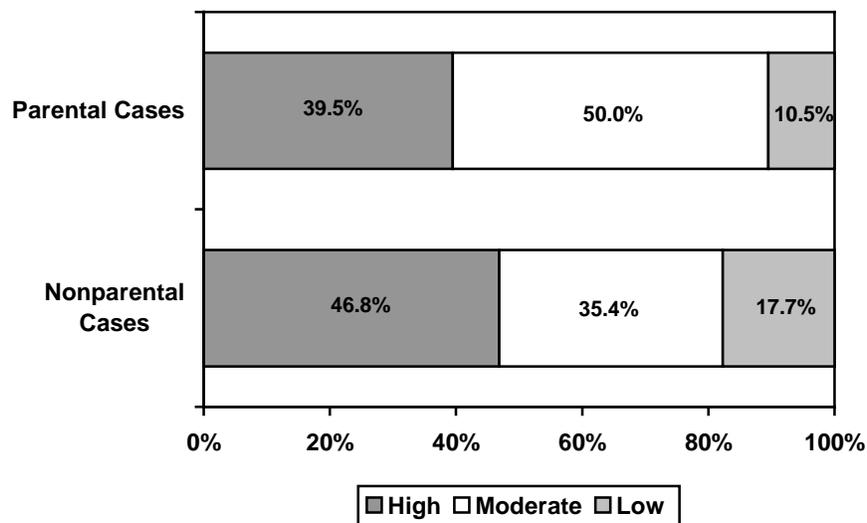


Exhibit III-28 - Cares About Doing Well in School, by Case Type (Children Ages 6 to 11)

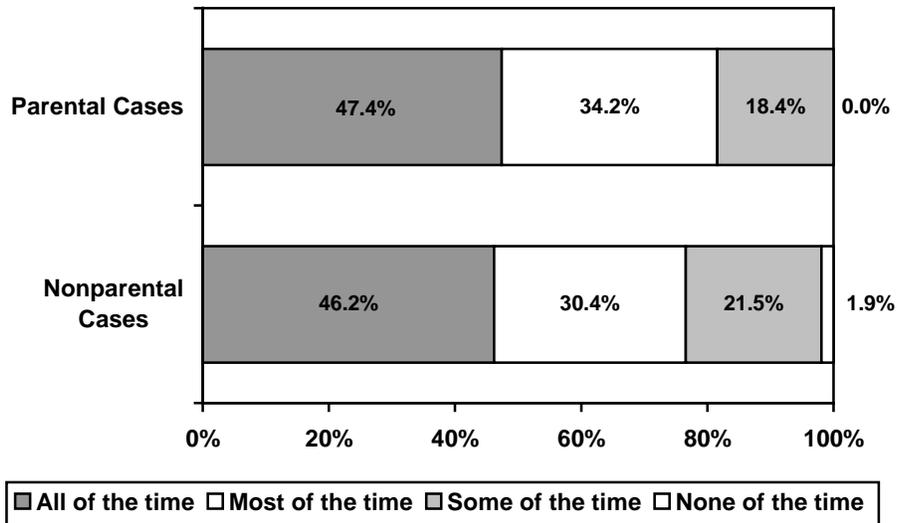


Exhibit III-29 - Only Works on Schoolwork When Forced To, by Case Type (Children Ages 6 to 11)

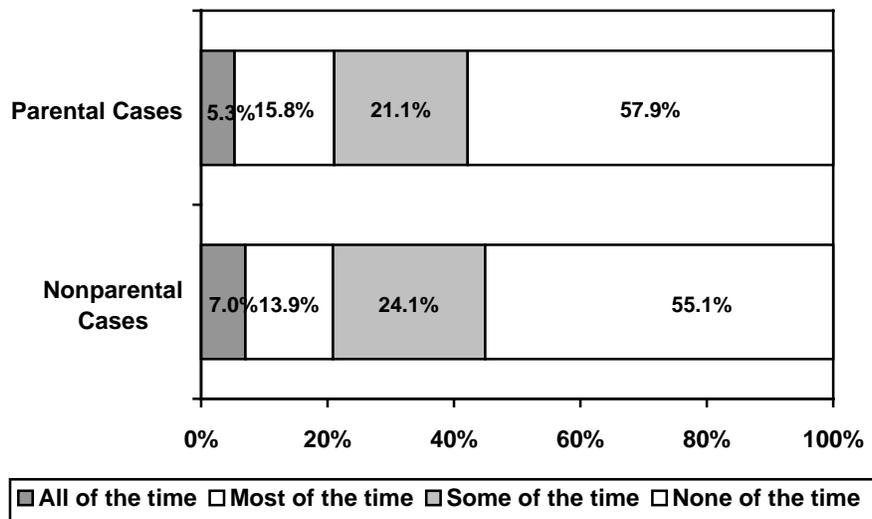


Exhibit III-30 - Does Just Enough Schoolwork To Get By, by Case Type (Children Ages 6 to 11)

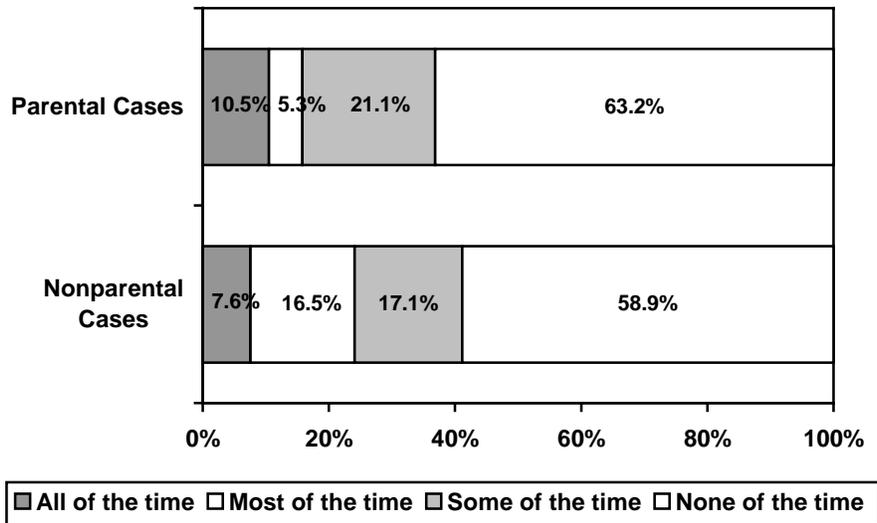
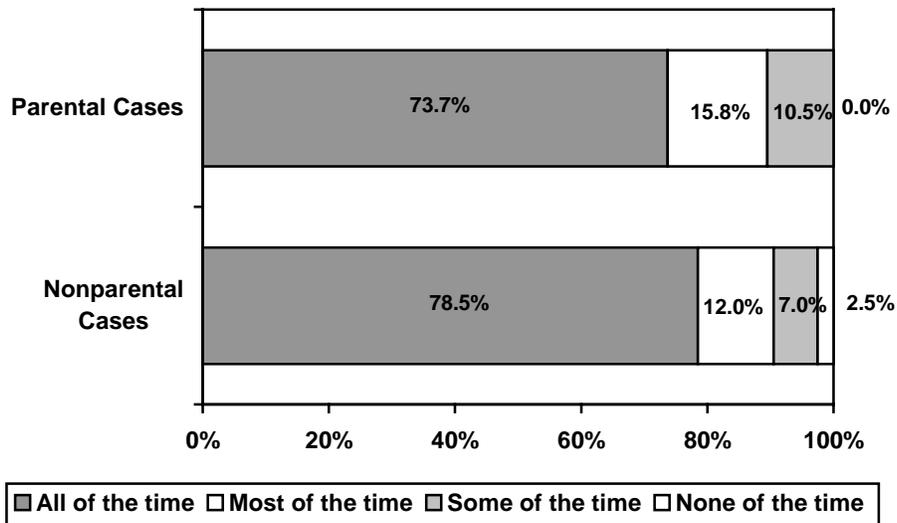


Exhibit III-31 - Always Does Homework, by Case Type (Children Ages 6 to 11)



Children Aged 6-11 in Parental Cases Had School Engagement Scores That Were Close to the National Average for Low-Income Families, While Children in Non-Parental Cases Had Scores That Were Above the National Average

Exhibit III-32 shows that about 39 percent of focal children aged 6-11 in the 1999 NSAF survey were highly engaged in school – about the same as the percentage for 6-11 year old children in parental child only cases in North Carolina.

In non-parental child only cases, children aged 6-11 exceeded the national average for low-income families in terms of the percentage who were highly engaged in school – almost 47 percent compared to 39 percent for all low-income families.

Exhibit III-32 Percent of Children Aged 6-11 Highly Engaged in School

Sample Unit	Percent
NSAF 1999 data for families below 200 percent of poverty	38.9%
North Carolina children in child only parental cases	39.5%
North Carolina children in child only non-parental cases	46.8%

4. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE, DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS, AND SCHOOL MOBILITY AMONG CHILDREN AGED 6-11

This section present data on school attendance, school discipline, and school mobility among 6-11 year old children in North Carolina child only cases. The NSAF Snapshots do not provide comparable data for this age group of children.

Children Aged 6-11 in Non-Parental Cases Were More Likely to Have Skipped School than Children in Parental Cases but Very Few Children in Either Type of Case Had Truancy Problems

As indicated in Exhibit III-33, the percentage of 6-11 year old children who had skipped school or cut classes in the past 6 months was 6.4 percent in non-parental cases, compared to only 2.6 percent in parental cases.

Children Aged 6-11 in Non-Parental Cases Were Somewhat More Likely to Have Been Expelled or Suspended

Exhibit III-34 shows that the percentage of 6-11 year old children who had been expelled or suspended in the past 6 months was almost 8 percent in parental cases and almost 11 percent in non-parental cases.

Exhibit III-33 - During the Past 6 Months, How Many Times Has the Focal Child Skipped School or Cut Classes Without Permission? - by Case Type (Children Ages 6 to 11)

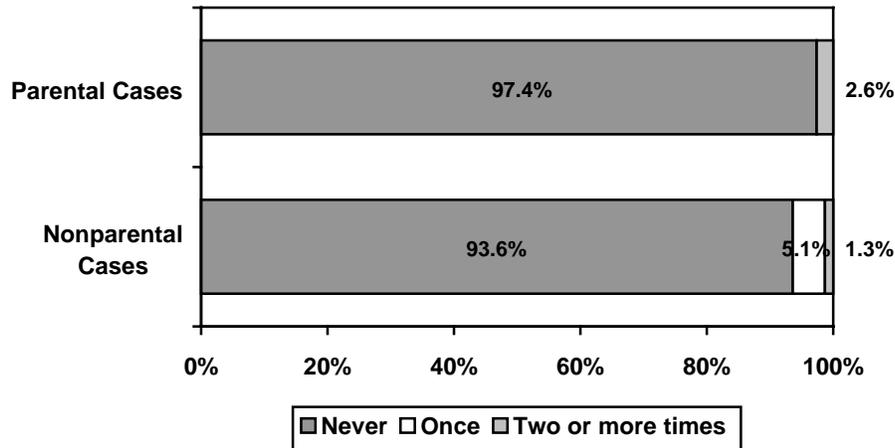
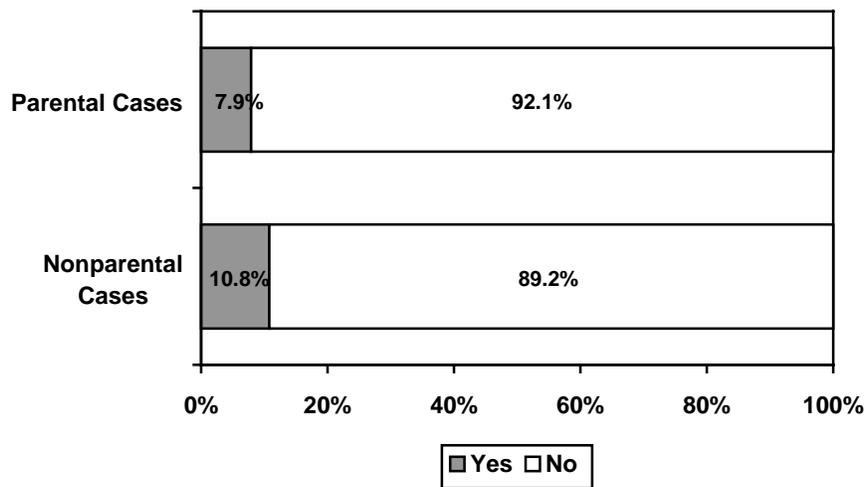


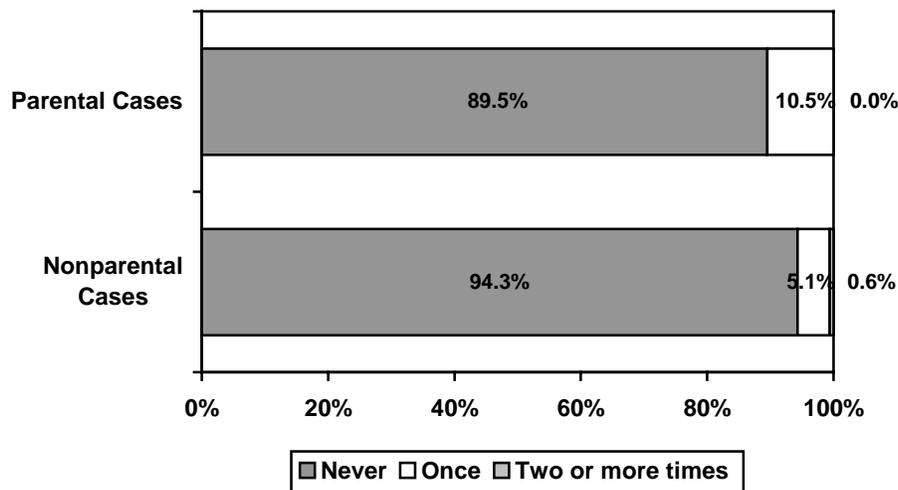
Exhibit III-34 - During the Past 6 Months, Has Focal Child Been Suspended or Expelled? - by Case Type (Children Ages 6 to 11)



Children in Parental Cases Were More Likely to Have Changed Schools in the Last 6 Months

As indicated in Exhibit III-35, the percentage of cases in which the 6-11 year old focal child had changed schools in the past year was 10.5 percent in parental cases and 5.7 percent in non-parental cases.

Exhibit III-35 - How Many Times Did the Focal Child Change Schools in the Past 6 Months? - by Case Type (Children Ages 6 to 11)



E. WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN AGED 12-17

This section presents findings on the well-being of children aged 12-17 in North Carolina child only cases. Comparisons are also drawn with national data from the NSAF. Information is presented on the following variables:

- behavioral and emotional problems, as measured by the six NSAF questions that comprise the Child Behavior Index for children aged 12-17;
- involvement in positive activities, as measured by the three questions from the NSAF for 12-17 year old children;
- school engagement, as measured by the four-item NSAF School Engagement Index; and
- school attendance problems, school behavior problems, and school mobility.

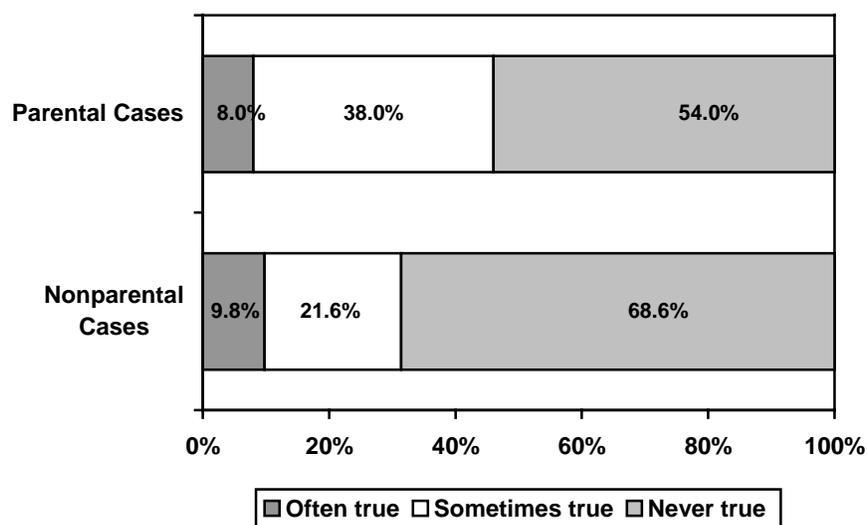
To compare the North Carolina findings with the published NSAF data, we present comparable data based on the NSAF indices for each major set of questions.

1. BEHAVIOR AND EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS AMONG CHILDREN AGED 12-17

Respondents in Parental Cases Were More Likely to Report That Their 12-17 Children Had Trouble Getting Along With Other Children

As indicated in Exhibit III-36, about 46 percent of the respondents in parental cases reported that their 12-17 year old child often or sometimes did not get along with other children, compared to only 31 percent of the respondents in non-parental cases.

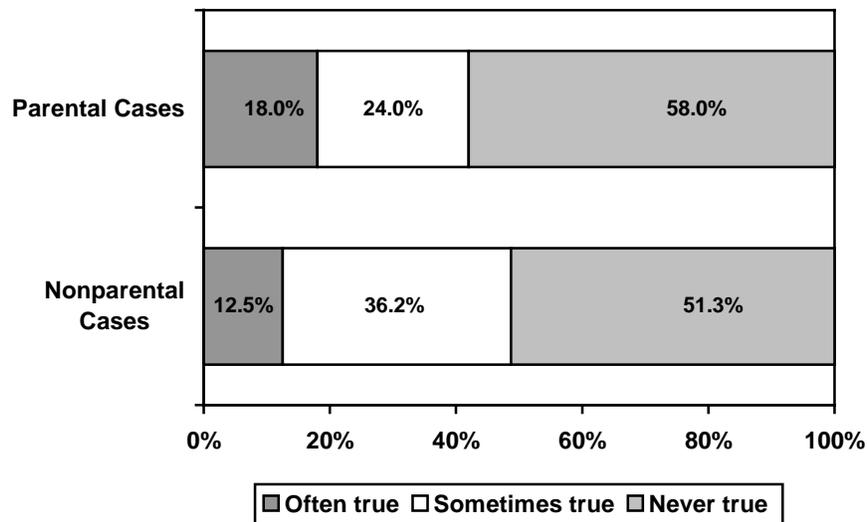
**Exhibit III-36 - He/She Doesn't Get Along With Other Kids,
by Case Type (Children Ages 12 to 17)**



Respondents in Non-Parental Cases Were Somewhat More Likely to Report That Their 12-17 Children Had Trouble Concentrating or Paying Attention

As shown in Exhibit III-37, almost 49 percent of the respondents in non-parental cases reported that their 12-17 year old child often or sometimes had trouble concentrating or paying attention, compared to only 42 percent of the respondents in parental cases.

Exhibit III-37 - He/She Can't Concentrate or Pay Attention for Very Long, by Case Type (Children Ages 12 to 17)

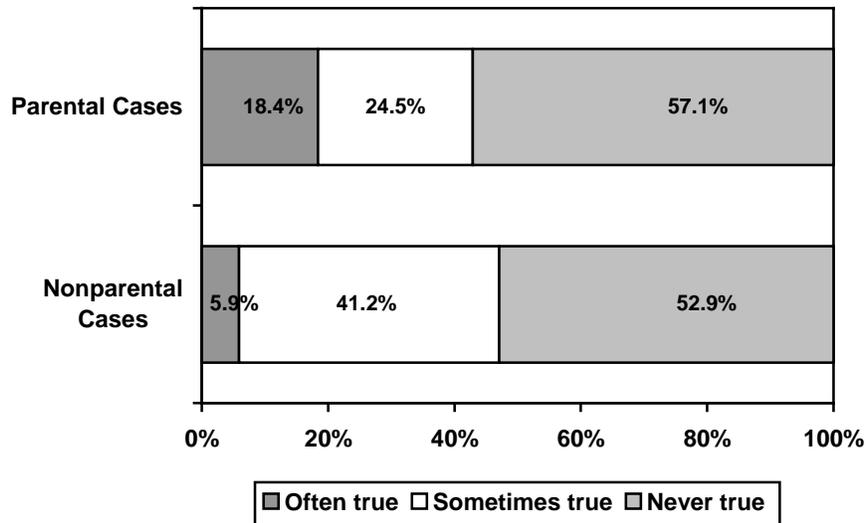


Respondents in Parental Cases Were More Likely to Report That Their 12-17 Children Was Often Unhappy

As shown in Exhibit III-38, about 18 percent of the respondents in parental cases reported that their 12-17 year old child was “often” unhappy or depressed, compared to only 6 percent of the respondents in non-parental cases.

However, there was not a major difference between the two types of cases in the *combined* percentage reporting that their child was “often” or “sometimes” depressed.

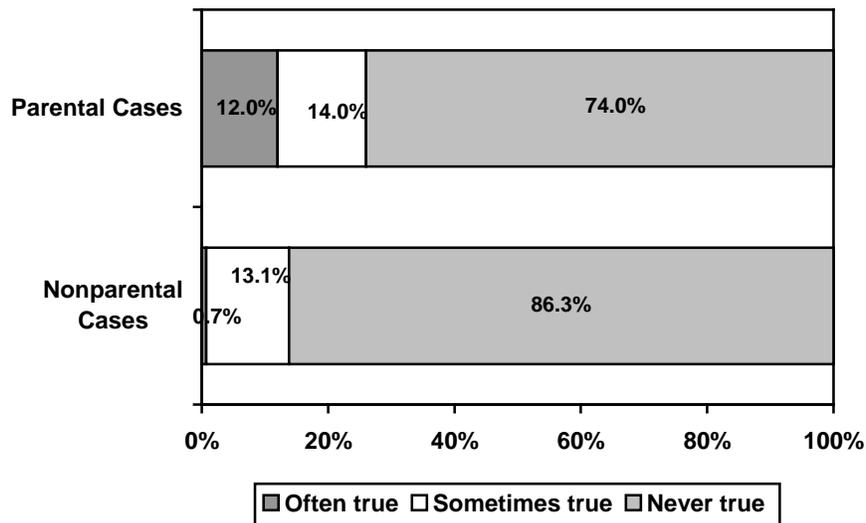
Exhibit III-38 - He/She Has Been Unhappy, Sad or Depressed, by Case Type (Children Ages 12 to 17)



Respondents in Parental Cases Were Much More Likely to Report That Their 12-17 Children Had Trouble Sleeping

As indicated in Exhibit III-39, about 12 percent of the respondents in parental cases reported that their 12-17 year old child often had trouble sleeping, compared to less than one percent of the respondents in non-parental cases.

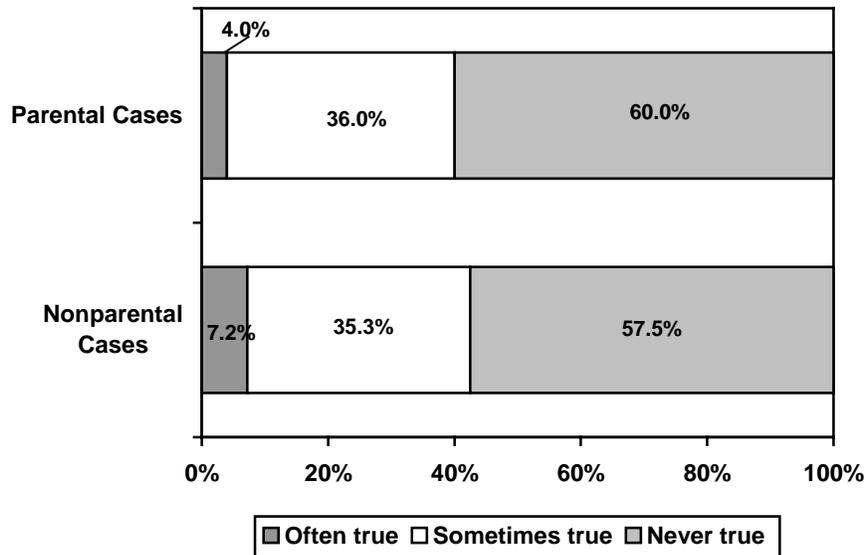
Exhibit III-39 - The Child (Aged 12-17) Has Trouble Sleeping -- by Case Type



There Was Not a Great Difference Between the Two Types of Cases in the Percentage of Respondents Reporting that their Child Lied or Cheated

Exhibit III-40 shows that there was not a major difference between parental and non-parental cases in the percentage of respondents reporting that their 12-17 year old children often or sometimes lied or cheated (about 40 percent for both groups).

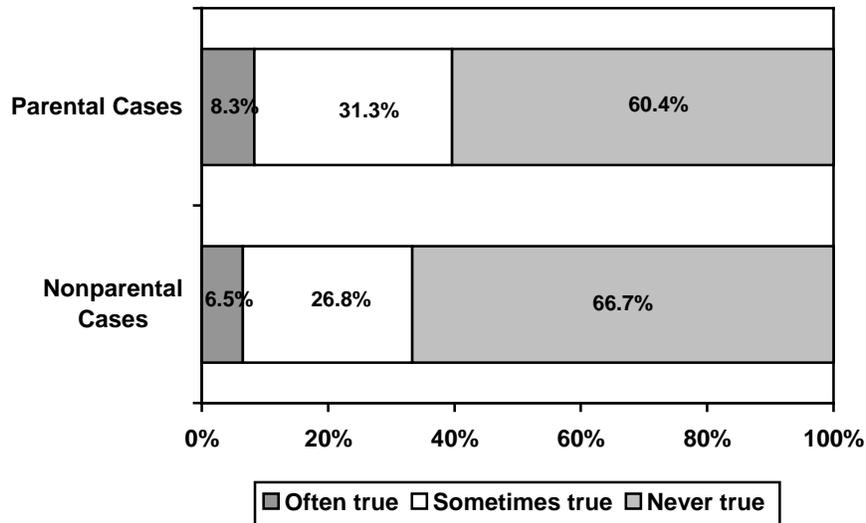
Exhibit III-40 - He/She Lies or Cheats (Child Aged 12-17)



Respondents in Parental Cases Were Slightly More Likely to Report That Their 12-17 Children Did Poorly at Schoolwork

As shown in Exhibit III-41, almost 40 percent of the respondents in parental cases reported that their 12-17 year old child often or sometimes did poorly at schoolwork, compared to 33 percent of the respondents in non-parental cases.

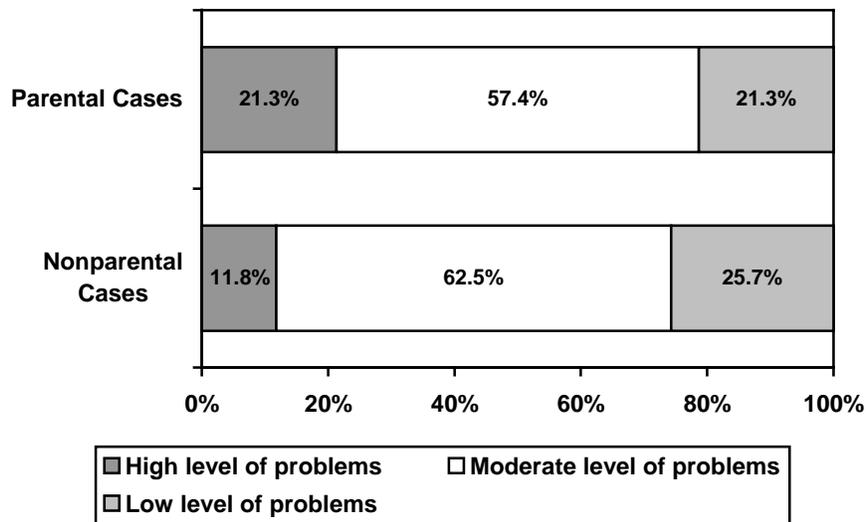
Exhibit III-41 - The Child (Aged 12-17) Does Poorly at Schoolwork -- by Case Type



On the Overall Child Behavior Index, the Percentage of 12-17 Year Olds Who Had a High Level of Problems Was Much Higher in Parental Cases

Using the NSAF Child Behavior Index to combine the results of the previous set of questions, Exhibit III-42 shows that 21 percent of the 12-17 year old children in parental cases had a high level of behavioral and emotional problems, compared to only 12 percent of children in non-parental cases.

**Exhibit III-42 - Child Behavior Index, by Case Type
(Children Ages 12 to 17)**



NSAF Data Show that 12-17 Year Old Children in Child Only Parental Cases Were Twice as Likely as Low-Income Families Nationally to Have a High Level of Behavior and Emotional Problems

Exhibit III-43 shows that, on the 1999 NSAF survey, about 10 percent of the 12-17 year old children in families below 200 percent of poverty had a high level of behavioral and emotional problems.

In contrast, 21 percent of the 12-17 year old children in child only *parental* cases in North Carolina had a high level of behavioral and emotional problems.

Children aged 12-17 in child only *non-parental* cases in North Carolina resembled low-income families nationally.

**Exhibit III-43
Percent of Children Aged 12-17 Who Had a High Level of Behavioral and Emotional Problems**

Sample Unit	Percent
NSAF 1999 Data For Families Below 200 Percent Of Poverty	10.3%
North Carolina Children In Child Only Parental Cases	21.3%
North Carolina Children In Child Only Non-Parental Cases	11.8%

2. INVOLVEMENT IN POSITIVE ACTIVITIES AMONG CHILDREN AGED 12-17

Children Aged 12-17 in Non-Parental Cases Were Much More Likely to Have Been Involved in Clubs and Activities Than Children in Parental Cases

As shown in Exhibit III-44, almost 50 percent of the respondents in non-parental cases reported that their 12-17 year old child had been involved in clubs, organizations, or organized activities in the last 6 months, compared to only 22 percent of the respondents in parental cases.

Exhibit III-45 indicates that there was no difference between the two groups in the percentage reporting that their 12-17 year old child had been on a sports team in the past year (34 percent in both groups).

In addition, Exhibit III-46 shows that there was no difference between the two groups in the percentage reporting that their 12-17 year old child had taken lessons or classes after school or on weekends in subjects like music, dance, languages, or computers (16 percent for both groups).

Exhibit III-47 combines the data from the three preceding exhibits to show the percentage of 12-17 year old children who were engaged in at least one of the three types of activities. As indicated, almost 65 percent of the 12-17 year old children in non-parental cases had been involved in at least one of the three types of activities, compared to only 46 percent of the 12-17 year old children in parental cases.

Exhibit III-44 - In the Last 6 Months, Has Focal Child (Aged 12-17) Participated in Any Clubs, Organizations, or Organized Activities? -- by Case Type

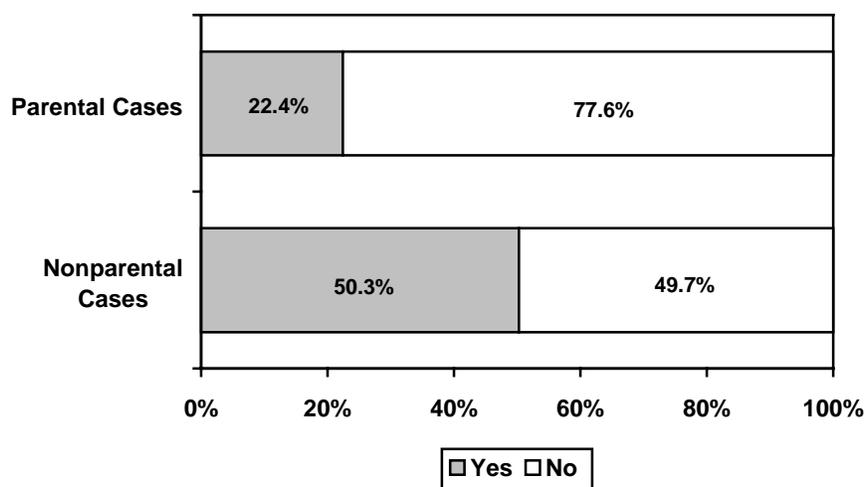


Exhibit III-45 - In the Last Year, Has Focal Child (Aged 12-17) Been On a Sports Team? -- by Case Type

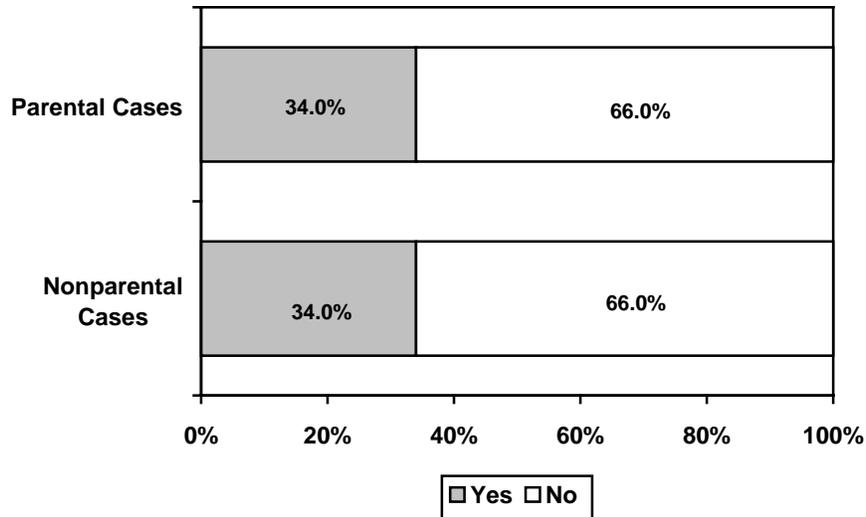


Exhibit III-46 - In the Last 6 Months, Has Focal Child (Aged 12-17) Taken Lessons After School or on the Weekend in Subjects Like Music, Dance, Language, or Computers? -- by Case Type

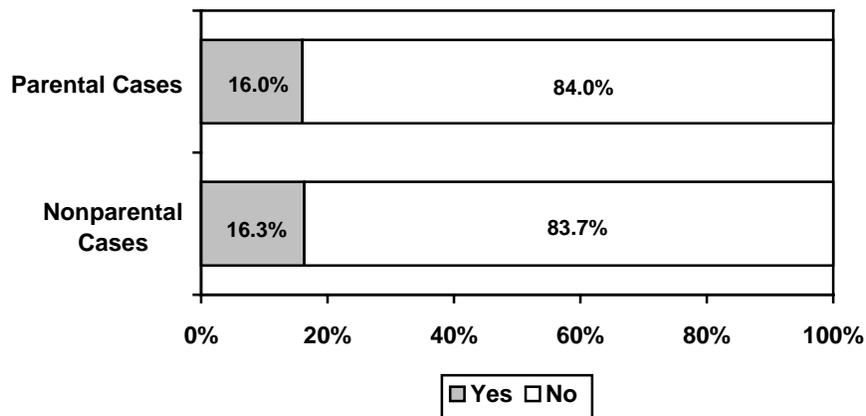
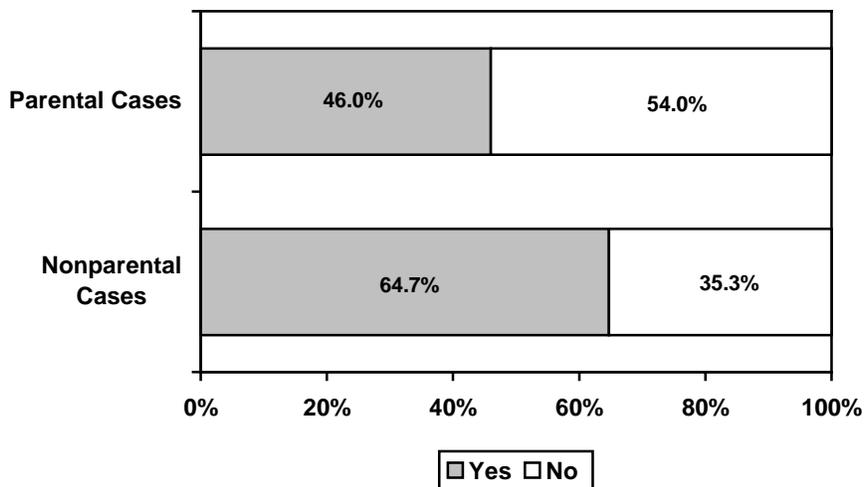


Exhibit III-47 -- Percent of Children Aged 12-17 Who Had Been Involved in at Least One Positive Activity, by Case Type



Based on NSAF Data, the Children Aged 12-17 in Parental Cases Were Much Less Likely to be Involved in Activities Than the National Average for Low-Income Families

The published NSAF data show the percentage of children who were engaged in at least one of the three types of activities described above in Exhibits III-45, III-46, and III-47. In Exhibit III-48, we present the NSAF data on the percentage of 12-17 year old children who were involved in at least one of these three types of activities. Comparable data are presented for the child only cases in North Carolina.

As indicated, almost 73 percent of the low-income respondents to the 1999 NSAF survey reported that their 12-17 year old child was involved in at least one of the three activities. This compares to only 46 percent of the respondents in parental child only cases in North Carolina.

Children in non-parental child only cases were slightly below the national average for low-income families in terms of the percentage engaged in positive activities.

**Exhibit III-48
Percentage of Children Aged 12-17 Participating
in at Least One Positive Activity**

Sample Unit	Percent
NSAF 1999 data for families below 200 percent of poverty	72.6%
North Carolina children in child only parental cases	46.0%
North Carolina children in child only non-parental cases	64.7%

3. SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT AMONG CHILDREN AGED 12-17

This section presents the findings on school engagement among focal children who were aged 12-17.

There Was Not a Great Difference Between Parental and Non-Parental Cases in the School Engagement of Children Aged 12-17

Using the four-question School Engagement scale, Exhibit III-49 shows that almost 42 percent of the 12-17 year old children in parental cases were highly engaged in school. About the same percentage of 12-17 year old children in non-parental cases were highly engaged in school. Exhibits III-50 to III-53 show the responses to the individual questions in the School Engagement scale, by type of case.

**Exhibit III-49 - School Engagement Index, by Case Type
(Children Ages 12 to 17)**

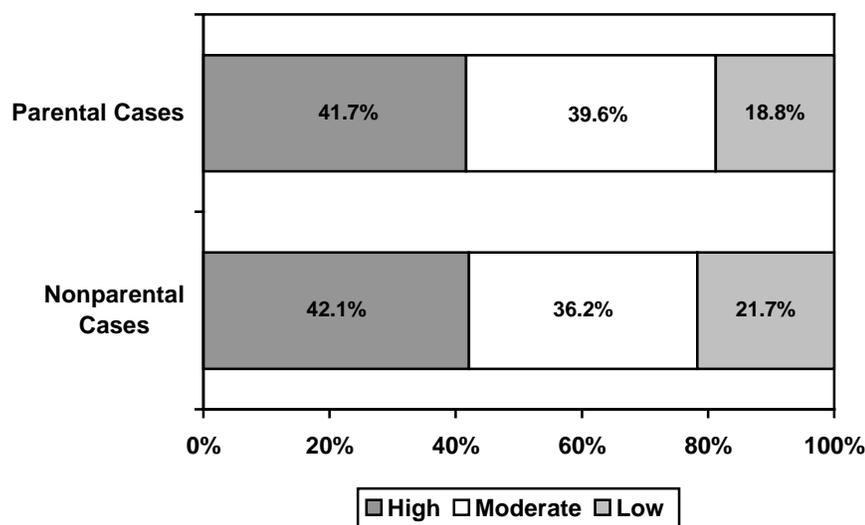


Exhibit III-50 - Cares About Doing Well in School, by Case Type (Children Ages 12 to 17)

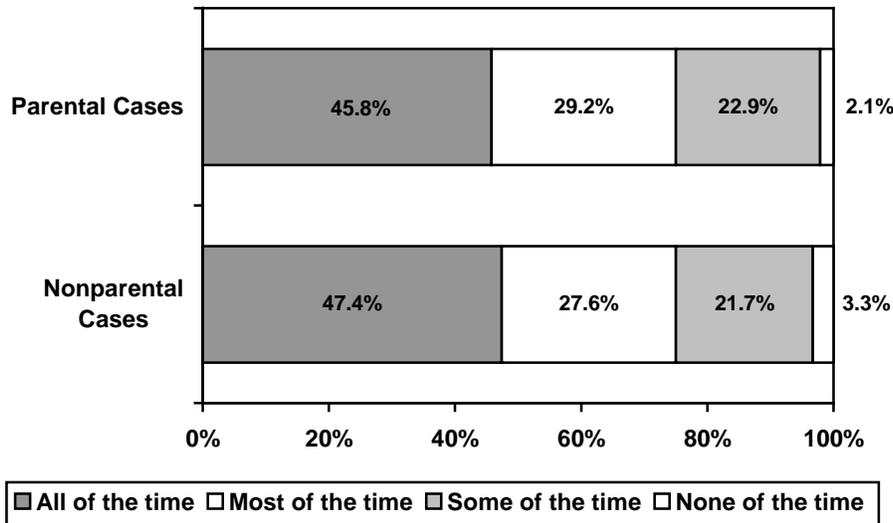


Exhibit III-51 - Only Works on Schoolwork When Forced To, by Case Type (Children Ages 12 to 17)

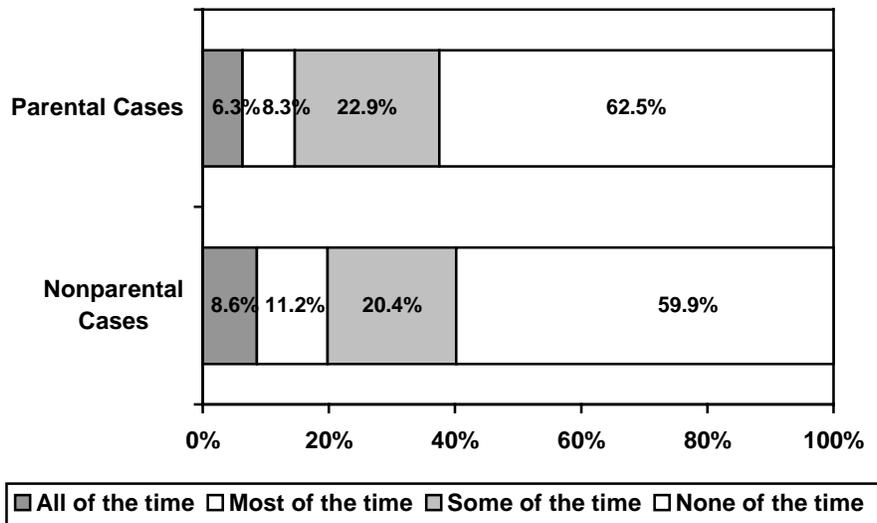


Exhibit III-52 - Does Just Enough Schoolwork to Get By, by Case Type (Children Ages 12 to 17)

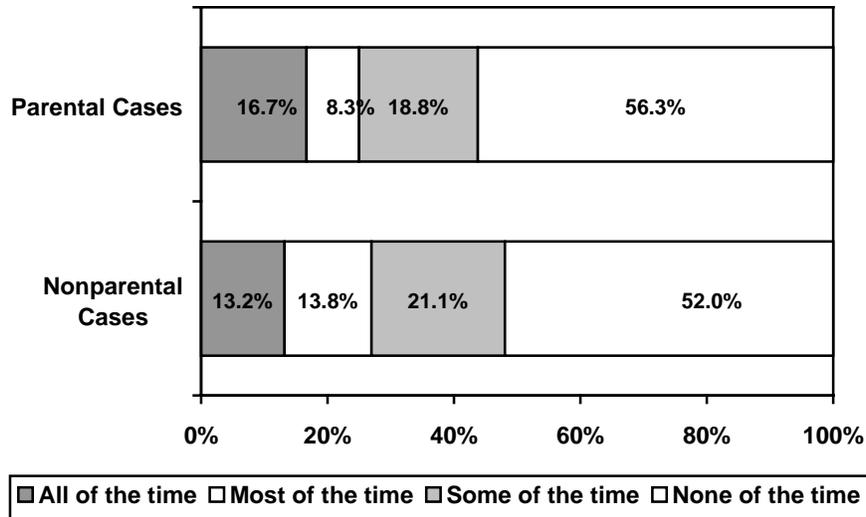
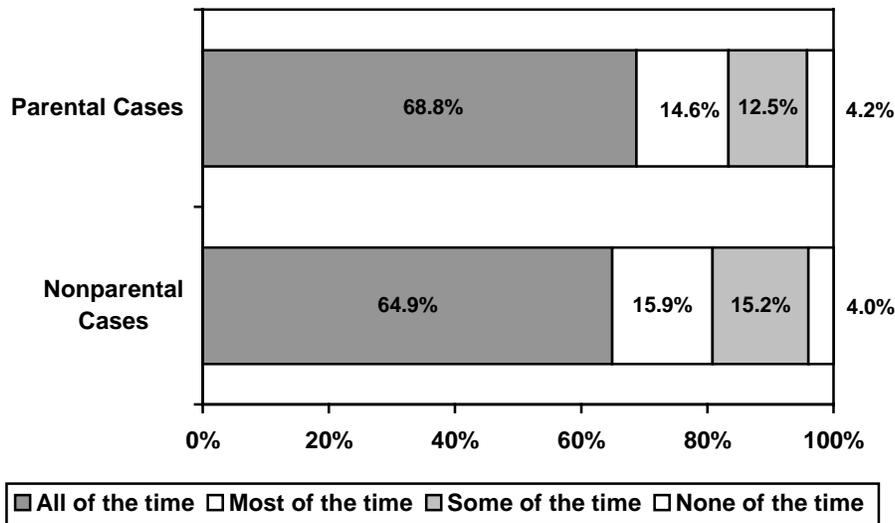


Exhibit III-53 - Always Does Homework, by Case Type (Children Ages 12 to 17)



Children Aged 12-17 in North Carolina Child Only Cases Had School Engagement Scores That Somewhat Exceeded the National Average for Low-Income Families

Exhibit III-54 shows that 34 percent of focal children aged 12-17 in the 1999 NSAF survey were highly engaged in school – somewhat lower than the percentage for 12-17 year old children in parental and non-parental child only cases in North Carolina.

Exhibit III-54 Percent of Children Aged 12-17 Highly Engaged in School

Sample Unit	Percent
NSAF 1999 data for families below 200 percent of poverty	34.0%
North Carolina children in child only parental cases	41.7%
North Carolina children in child only non-parental cases	42.1%

4. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE, DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS, AND SCHOOL MOBILITY AMONG CHILDREN AGED 12-17

There Was Not Much Difference Parental and Non-Parental Cases in the Percentage of 12-17 year Old Children Who Had Skipped School or Been Expelled or Suspended

As indicated in Exhibit III-55, the percentage of 12-17 year old children who had skipped school or cut classes in the past 6 months was 10.7 percent in parental cases and 13.8 percent in non-parental cases. Exhibit III-56 shows that the percentage of 12-17 year old children who had been expelled or suspended in the past 6 months was 25 percent in parental cases and 28 percent in non-parental cases.

Children Aged 12-17 years Old in Parental Cases Were More Likely to Have Changed Schools in the Last 6 Months Than Children in Non-Parental Cases

As indicated in Exhibit III-57, about 14 percent of 12-17 year old children in parental cases had changed schools in the past 6 months, compared to only 7.5 percent of the 12-17 year old children in non-parental cases.

Exhibit III-55 - During the Past 6 Months, How Many Times Has the Focal Child Skipped School or Cut Classes Without Permission? - by Case Type (Children Ages 12 to 17)

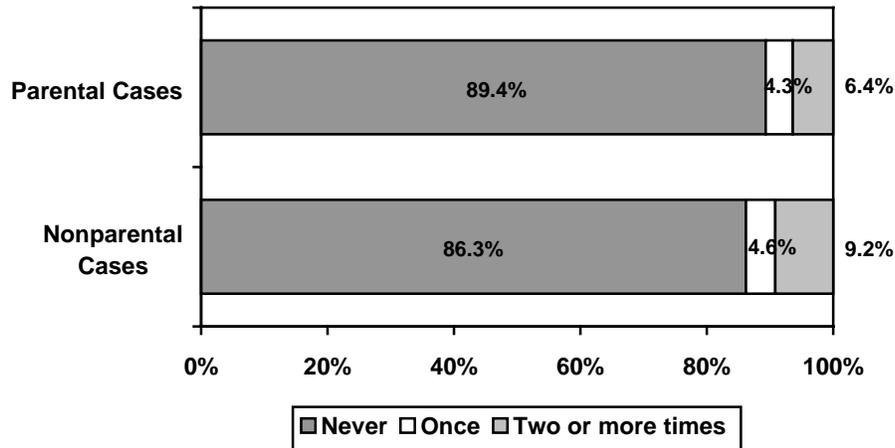


Exhibit III-56 - During the Past 6 Months, Has Focal Child Been Suspended or Expelled? - by Case Type (Children Ages 12 to 17)

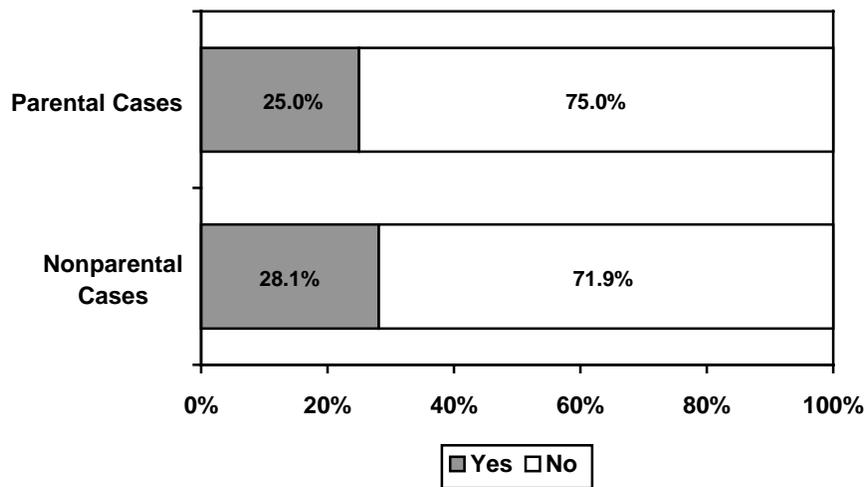
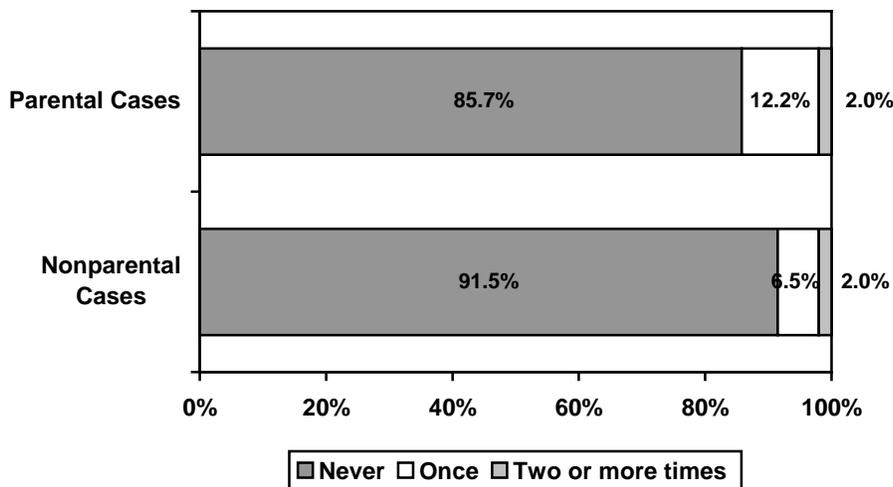


Exhibit III-57 - How Many Times Did the Focal Child Change Schools in the Past 6 Months? - by Case Type (Children Ages 12 to 17)



NSAF Data Suggest That 12-17 Year Old Children in Child Only Cases Had Been Suspended or Expelled at a Higher Rate than the National Average for Low-Income Families

Exhibit III-58 presents the 1999 NSAF survey data for low-income families showing the percentage of 12-17 year old children had been suspended or expelled from school *in the past year*. The data are not directly comparable to the North Carolina data because the surveys for North Carolina captured information *for the past 6 months*. However, the data in the exhibit suggest that 12-17 year olds in child only cases in North Carolina had been suspended or expelled at a higher rate than the national average for low-income families.

**Exhibit III-58
School Truancy and Discipline Problems
(Focal Children Aged 12-17)***

Problem	Parental Cases	Non-Parental Cases	1999 NSAF Data**
Percent of cases in which child skipped school	10.7%	13.8%	20.1%
Percent of cases in which child had been suspended or expelled	25.0%	28.1%	22.4%

*NSAF data are for the past 12 months. North Carolina data are for the past 6 months

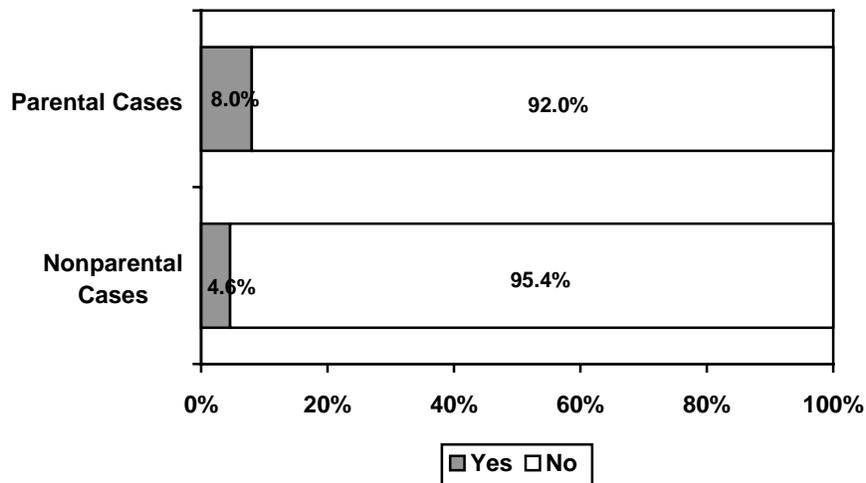
**Families below 200 percent of poverty

5. TROUBLE WITH POLICE (CHILDREN AGED 12-17)

Children Aged 12-17 in Parental Cases Were Somewhat More Likely to Have Been in Trouble with the Police than Children in Non-Parental Cases

As indicated in Exhibit III-59, about 8 percent of the 12-17 year old focal children in parental cases had been in trouble with the police in the past 6 months, compared to only 4.6 percent of the 12-17 year old children in non-parental cases.

Exhibit III-59 - During the Last 6 Months, Has the Focal Child Been in Trouble with the Police? - by Case Type (Children Ages 12 to 17)



F. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION AND SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT IN NON-PARENTAL CASES

In Non-Parental Cases, Children Who Were Living with Married Caretakers Had Higher School Engagement Than Children Living with Non-Married Caretakers

Exhibit III-60 shows that, in non-parental cases, school-age focal children were more likely to have low school engagement if they were not living with married caretakers. In households where both grandparents were present, only 9 percent of the focal children aged 6-17 had low school engagement. In cases where both the aunt and uncle were present, about 18 percent of the children had low school engagement.

In households where only the grandmother was present but not the grandfather, 22 percent of the children had low school engagement. In households where the aunt was present but not the uncle, almost 42 percent of the school-age focal children had low school engagement. In “other” households, almost 35 percent of the children had low school engagement.

Exhibit III-60
Percentage of Children Aged 6-17 With Low School Engagement,
by Household Composition, Non-Parental Cases

Household Composition*	Percent with Low School Engagement
Both grandparents present	9.3%
Grandmother present but not grandfather	22.3%
Aunt and uncle present, no grandparents	17.9%
Aunt present but not uncle	41.7%
Other	34.8%

*Relationship of adults to the youngest Work First child

G. EMPLOYMENT AMONG CHILDREN AGED 12-17

Only 4-5 Percent of Children Aged 12-17 Had Worked for Pay in the Past Month

As indicated in Exhibit III-60, only 4-5 percent of the children aged 12-17 had worked for pay in the past month. The percentage did not vary by case type.

Exhibit III-60 - Did the Focal Child (Aged 12-17) Work for Pay During the Past Month? -- by Case Type

